

The Rush County Council met in regular session on July 9, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. with Gerald Mohr, Chairman, Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Kevin Spilman, Jerry Kent, Mary Ann Beard, Auditor and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance.

Chairman, Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the May meeting were approved on a motion by Charles Smith and seconded by Marvin Hedrick.

HIGHWAY DEPT

Rush County Highway Superintendent, Jerry Sitton requested the Council to adopt an ordinance establishing the underground storage tank fund. Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Marvin Hedrick. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Health Department requested a transfer of funds for Health-Preparedness in the amount of \$600 from Mileage to supplies. Kevin Spilman move to allow the transfer and Jerry Kent seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE

Auditor, Mary Ann Beard stated that the supply appropriation in the Courthouse budget has been depleted. The board approved a transfer of \$1,000 from Building Maintenance & Supplies to Operating Supplies on a motion by Charles Smith and seconded by Warren Norris.

PURDUE EXTENSION

Kristi Amos was granted permission to hire a fulltime employee to replace retiring Marcia Snyder on a motion by Jerry Kent. Kevin Spilman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Ashley Stevens Director of Community Corrections received an additional appropriation in the amount of \$158,764 for the DOC grant on a motion by Marvin Hedrick and a second by Charlie Smith. Motion carried. An additional appropriation for User Fees in the amount of \$104,700 was allowed. Motion to approve was offered by Jerry Kent and seconded by Kevin Spilman. Motion carried.

Duane Raab has been selected as the new Field Supervisor Officer.

2014 SALARY ORDINANCE #2013-1

was amended on a motion by Kevin Spilman and seconded by Janet Kile to include adjusted annual salary for the Case Manager at \$29,562 and the Field Supervision Officer at \$31,720.

Amendments also include \$1,000 addition salary for rank pay for Doug Keith and the Sheriff's (Prosecutor) bonus of \$1,341.12. Motion carried.

RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Verlin Custer of Raleigh Fire Department submitted the financial report for the second quarter for his department.

RUSHVILLE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Notice was received according to state statute that there is no “excess assessed value” in the Rush Renewable Energy, INTAT and Commerce Park Allocated TIF Areas.

An Economic and Tax Revenue Impact Statement prepared by Reedy Financial Group for the Milroy Industrial Corridor Redevelopment Area was submitted.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jeff Sherwood reported the inmate count at 34. The new State Board of Accounts rate for prisoner meals has been raised to \$1.92 per meal. This increase is now reflected in the amount charged by Rush Memorial Hospital although this increase was not built into the jail budget.

The sheriff is contemplating a change from the Spilman System to VIA which is a similar system priced at \$15,000 less. There will be an increase in pension contributions for the sheriff's department from 30.4% in 2014 to 33.7% in 2015.

JAIL

Henry County representatives would like to meet with Rush County personnel to discuss any interest in a joint jail. A site visit to Washington County was planned to see the 2-story pod jail. Preservation Collaborative a study for Courtroom renovation should be considered with the jail project.

AREA PLAN

Rhea Dawn Buckley, Area Plan Director, reported that she has advertised for help in the APC office. Jerry Kent reiterated that only a part time position of 14 hours had been approved and no one on the council was receiving reports from the APC. Communication was breaking down between the APC and the Council and the employee hours should be discussed at the next meeting. APC board members Lois Hatfield and Jeff Slayton were present and shared the opinion that the council did not value the APC office by postponing a decision until August 27th and that every day the director is falling further behind. Charles Smith move to allow up to 29 hours per week at part time rate as long as the council received reports from the APC. Kevin Spilman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Buckley shared that Kroger fueling station will locate on the Kroger parking lot and that a company named APEX is contemplating the assignment of the wind farm contracts originated with NORDEX.

ECDC

Carolyn Bunzendahl representing ECDC reported that progress continues on North Industrial Park with a completion date in November.

ECDC is partnering with the Small Business Administration and the Chamber of Commerce to present a program on Using Social Media in the Workplace on July 16th.

The ECDC is also initiating the Work Ready Communities Program where employers through a testing program, can have their employee attain a “National Career Readiness Certificate. The local goal is to have 19 businesses participate.

Motion to adjourn was initiated by Jerry Kent. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/ Gerald Mohr
Gerald Mohr, Chairman

/s/ Warren Norris
Warren Norris

/s/ Charles Smith
Charles Smith

/s/ Janet Kile
Janet Kile

/s/ Marvin Hedrick
Marvin Hedrick

/s/ Kevin Spilman
Kevin Spilman

ABSENT
Jerry Kent